

DIED AT THE STAKE.

Negro Fearfully Expiated a Terrible Crime.

VICTIM'S HUSBAND LED AVENGERS

Dragged the brute through the streets of Mayville, Ky., then burned him, with awful tortures—Assaulted and murdered a woman.

MAYSVILLE, Ky., Dec. 7.—Richard Coleman (colored), confessed murderer of Mrs. James Lashbrook, wife of his employer, expiated his crime in daylight at the hands of a mob, consisting of thousands of citizens, by burning at the stake, after suffering torture and fright beyond description.

The dreadful spectacle occurred on the peaceful quiet grounds on the outskirts of this one of the oldest and among the proudest cities of Kentucky.

Richard Coleman was the trusted employee of Farmer James Lashbrook. On the day of the murder Mrs. Lashbrook had driven to Mayville and returned, when Coleman accompanied her to the cabin to look at some work at which he had been engaged. The negro looked the door on the inside. Mrs. Lashbrook became frightened and screamed.

Coleman struck her on the head, knocking her down, but not stopping her cries. He then seized a razor and cut her throat. He picked up the bleeding woman and placed it on the bed. He then left the room, but returning, heard her still groaning and with an axe he struck her repeatedly on the head until she was sure dead. The negro washed the blood from his hands and clothing and went to where Mr. Lashbrook was as work in the field, and told him that he had better come to the house, as some one had killed his wife. Mr. Lashbrook, who was a very nervous man, took the matter seriously until Coleman insisted that his wife was dead. Even then, so great was the confidence of Mr. Lashbrook in Coleman, that he thought Coleman was the murderer. It was not until after the officers arrived that suspicion was directed against Coleman. Blood spots had been found on his clothing, but he accounted for that by saying that he had been killing chickens.

That night, however, at Mayville, a partial confession was obtained from Coleman. Knowing the result if that fact should become known, the officers quietly took him to Covington, Ky., for safe keeping. He was indicted for the murder. Shortly after his incarceration at Covington he made a complete and horrible confession of his crime to the jailer. The story of his revolting crime, including worse than murder, was told without any appearance of feeling by the prisoner.

Sheriff Perrine, under orders of Judge Harbeson, with four assistants, went to Covington, expecting to return with Coleman that night, but after reaching Covington the jailer at Mayville wired not to attempt to bring the prisoner into Mayville at night.

Sheriff Perrine and deputies left Covington the next day with the prisoner. Coleman had been apprised the night before the day the departure was made to prepare to return to the scene of his crime. He was instantly stricken with fear and begged piteously to be permitted to remain in Covington until after his trial. He said he expected to die, but he dreaded the vengeance of a mob.

Sheriff Perrine, while enroute to Mayville, had been informed that a mob was awaiting the arrival of the train at the depot and he hastily prepared for the swearing in of deputy sheriffs. As the train pulled slowly into the old station the mob formed on both sides in two long lines, cheering and shouting. Armed men stationed themselves at the platforms of all the cars and warned the frightened passengers to remain quiet and not to interfere. A low murmur gathered louder force as it spread up and down the train, and the volumes slowly increased to a roar as first one and then another of the waiting men plunged into the cars.

The sheriff and his assistants were strongly armed and there was some resistance as the leaders of the mob rushed roughly against them and hoarse demands were uttered from the outer edges of the crowd. Sheriff Perrine made a bold movement and started walking swiftly, but with no indications of panic, and piteously to be permitted to remain in Covington until after his trial. He said he expected to die, but he dreaded the vengeance of a mob.

As the officers proceeded the numbers of the mob were constantly swelled by new arrivals, and through the down town business district they came until they were closely followed. Hundreds of stones and other missiles were thrown and revolvers and rifles were freely displayed. The prisoner was frequently struck and he presented a frightful appearance. More and more the crowd swelled and the mob was a mob of over 2,000 men, headed by James Lashbrook, the husband of the murdered woman, had been hastily formed.

The prisoner was taken away from the officers. Up through the center portion of the town the march was taken. The prisoner being held by the guard and dragged along with the aid of ropes loosely attached to his body. He was the target aimed at by hundreds of missiles and several times he sank half unconscious to the ground while the crowd pressed forward, striking at him with clubs, sticks and whips until his head and body were scarred and recognizable. More and more the mob was dragged along and alive to his feet. Scores of women joined the men. High above the noise the wretch could be heard pleading for his life and the cry of the prisoner would be answered with an oath and a blow. This spectacle continued until the grounds were reached.

The place of execution had been selected weeks ago, in accordance with all the other arranged details of the program mapped out by the leaders of the mob. The prisoner was dragged to the sapling and strapped against the tree, facing the husband of the victim. Large quantities of dry brush and larger bits of wood were piled around him while he was praying for speedy death. James Lashbrook, the victim, of the victim, applied the first match to the brushwood. A brother of the victim struck the second match. Someone with a knife was vainly slashing at the prisoner's chest.

As the flames arose Coleman's horrors increased. He made vain efforts to withdraw his limbs from the encroaching fire; his eyes rolled in a frenzy of suffering. The ropes scouring him to the tree were burned and his body finally fell forward on the burning pile. Even then, although it was not certain whether he was living or dead, the vengeful purpose of the crowd led them to use rails and long poles to push his body back into the flames. It is not certain how long he lasted. During the process, while his voice could be heard, he asked for a drink of water, his tongue protruding and his eyeballs fairly started from his head. At the end of three hours his body was practically cremated.

During all that time members of the

family of Mrs. Lashbrook had remained to keep up the fire and to keep the body in position where it would continue to burn. At that time a nephew of Mrs. Lashbrook was pushing the body onto the burned embers, while a curious crowd of several thousand persons still lingered on the scene. It is said that the eyes had been burned out by acid thrown on the face. In all the thousands who constituted the mob there was not a single effort made to disguise or conceal identity. No one wore a mask. All the leaders of the mob are well known, and there are hundreds of witnesses who can testify to their participation in the tragedy. They are leading citizens in all lines of business and many are members of churches.

County Judge Harbeson will empanel a special grand jury at once to make a speedy investigation and return indictments against the leaders of the mob. The statement from Frankfort that Governor Bradley proposed to offer a reward for the apprehension of members of the mob did not excite much fear that the reward will be claimed. While there was a wide difference of opinion among residents of the city who were not connected with the mob, yet there was a strong feeling that no punishment would result from the tragedy.

The coroner held an inquest on the charred remains of Richard Coleman and rendered the simple verdict, "death at the hands of a mob." The body was left lying there and at the present writing has not been removed. Relic hunters took away teeth and bones and flesh and every fragment of the body that they could lay hands on. All the afternoon children, some of them not more than five or six, kept up the fires on the blackened body by throwing stones, kindling wood, brush, bits of boards and everything combustible that they could gather. This they kept up till dark.

It was related that Coleman, before committing his crime, threw pepper into his victim's eyes from a pepper box. One of the mob used that same pepper box to throw pepper in Coleman's eyes as soon as he was lashed to the stake. To make sure of a good job he held open one eyelid after the other and peppered them successively, then drew down the eyelids. In this way the action of the mob was universally approved, even enthusiastically by women, who think that hereafter they will be safer in consequence. Some men deprecate mob law, but say the case was an exception to all rules. There was report that Coleman's mother was on the way here to take charge of the ashes of her son.

OPINIONS ON MESSAGE.

In Germany and France the President's Comments on Relations Were Especially Liked.

BERLIN, Dec. 7.—The message sent to congress by President McKinley was most sympathetically received by newspaper and government circles in Germany. This was especially true of the foreign office, one of the highest officials of which told the representative of The Associated Press that the document had made a splendid impression, adding that the distinctively warm tone of the message was tending in an important manner to bring about a strengthening of the friendship of the two countries materially, and to removing difficulties and settling the meat and sugar questions still pending.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The amount of space devoted here to President McKinley's message to congress has been of widespread interest in the document. The afternoon papers, in long editorial articles on the subject, particularly refer to the currency declarations and so place themselves with the idea that the good relations between the United States and Great Britain are so well known as not to have required emphasis, as in the case of Germany. The Pall Mall Gazette sees in the message an unmistakable proof of Mr. Chamberlain's Leicester speech.

The Globe thinks the document is weak in foreign statesmanship and that on foreign policy, as elsewhere, it is tinged with opportunism.

The Westminster Gazette, discussing the message to Canada, says: "When discussing the relations between Great Britain and the United States it ought always to be remembered that there are very material interests which must be dealt with on a practical and not sentimental grounds. Gracious concessions are not seen in the same light by the daughter as by the mother."

PARIS, Dec. 7.—The Journal des Debats notes that President McKinley, in his message, if anything selects France more than Germany for the kindest references.

U. S. Consul Couldn't Protect Him.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—A 4:30 a. m.—The Times printed a letter from an American citizen who left Johannesburg because he was liable to be imprisoned and who had learned that the United States consul was unable to protect him. He complained bitterly that the American flag was not protected in Pretoria, that his passport was not recognized and that his position was practically unbearable.

THE RETIREMENT OF FRICK.

Opinion Advanced That a New Steel Company Might Be Formed.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 7.—The retirement of H. O. Frick from the chairmanship of the board of managers of the Carnegie Steel company, Limited, caused much comment. He still remains a consulting partner.

It was believed that Mr. Frick retained the controlling interest in the H. O. Frick Coke company and the opinion was advanced that this control of the vast coke interests strengthened his position and might lead to the formation of another great steel company in the near future. This was on the assumption that the recent relations between Messrs. Carnegie and Frick had not been altogether harmonious.

Editor McConnell Died.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7.—James McConnell, editor and one of the proprietors of The Evening Star of this city, died suddenly at the age of 55 years. Death was due to paralysis.

To Pension Mrs. Gridley.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—A bill was introduced by Mr. Penrose of Pennsylvania to pension Mrs. Gridley, wife of the late Captain Gridley of the Olympia, at \$100 per month.

Man Burned to Death.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7.—George N. Heyl, 62 years old, was burned to death in his shop. Heyl's body was found leaning against the front door. It is believed he was endeavoring to escape when he was overcome by smoke.

To Investigate Charleston Disaster.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Admiral Watson called the navy department to the court of inquiry to investigate the loss of the cruiser Charleston conveyed at Cavite. He added that all the Charleston's people were present.

THE QUAY CASE TODAY

Senate Committee Will Consider Election Cases.

LEGAL ARGUMENTS TO BE HEARD.

No Evidence Will Be Taken In the Pennsylvania Case—Order Likely For Testimony on Account of the Memorial Against Scott and Clark.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—A meeting of the senate committee on privileges and elections has been called for today to consider the protest against the seating of Senator Quay upon the appointment of the governor of Pennsylvania and the memorial urging the unseating of Senator Clark of Montana and Senator Scott of West Virginia, because of alleged irregularities in their respective elections.

It was thought probable that an order will be made for the taking of testimony in the Clark and Scott cases, and there may thus occur some delay in their consideration. No evidence, however, will be taken in the Quay case, in which only legal points will be considered. Both sides of that controversy will be represented by counsel.

REPUBLICANS APPROVED.

Members of the House Caucus Voted to Support the Financial Bill—Some Amendments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Republican members of the house of representatives gave their unanimous approval to the house financial bill, recently introduced, and recommended its immediate consideration and passage, in a resolution adopted as a caucus.

Mr. Overstreet of Indiana, who introduced the bill and is in general charge of it, today will submit a resolution asking that a special rule be adopted for the immediate consideration of this measure. The terms of this special rule are practically agreed upon, and provide that the debate will begin next Monday, with a final vote at the close of the week.

The unanimous approval given to the bill came after two hours of discussion, and the adoption of two amendments approved by the frames of the bill.

The main amendment was proposed by the frames of the bill to clear up some ambiguity of the present law. It is to be a new section, numbered 9, and is as follows:

"Section 9.—That section 10 of an act approved July 12, 1882, entitled an act to enable national banking associations to extend their corporate existence, be and the same is amended so as to read as follows: 'Section 10.—That upon a deposit of bonds, as described in sections 5109 and 5160 of the revised statutes, the association making the same shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency circulating notes of different denominations in blank, registered and countersigned, as provided by law, not exceeding the par value of the United States bonds so transferred and delivered, and the association shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency circulating notes of different denominations in blank, registered and countersigned, as provided by law, not exceeding the par value of the United States bonds so transferred and delivered, and the association shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency circulating notes of different 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